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Preserving the Culture

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Preserving the culture

Before starting on the project, she will introduce herself. This essay will be on a girl name Xuan y Huynh and how she preserves her cultural aspects. Xuan is also a name that means spring in which is a season. She is a proud to be an international baccalaureate student that is attending Amundsen high school. She is a soon to be junior. She was brought on to this world on June 20, 1994 in Maryland. Around the age of five, she moved to Chicago with her father and mother. She is honored to be a Vietnamese person. She has a younger brother who is ten years apart and is named Dat Tuan Huynh. When she grows older, she wants to become a doctor due to personal experience. During the after birth, she had almost died but saved by the doctor and this has influence her to help others. She wants to thank him by making a better world by changing people lives just like he did to her. Life wasn't easy for her because she was sometimes an outcast because of her race, accent, and grammar. Since Vietnamese was her first language, it was somewhat difficult for her to cope with the English language. People some times don't understand her so they don't bother to be around her and it was lonely at times. She lives by two quotes which are "what you determine now will be your future and work hard play hard." The first quote made her think of her action while the second one reminds her what she had accomplished after hard work. As she grows older, she have a perspective that she is clay in which society and culture are what shapes her to become what she is now. She doesn't necessary have a hero because she believes that life is a lesson in which she has to take and the test that is inevitable to avert. As she grew older, it hadn't come to her mind that her culture is fading until the day she stepped into the DePaul workshop which was on June 20, 2011. The program had helped her explore her heritage and made her proud of whom she is.

The history of preserving her language was taken back to her parents who were Dung and Minh. Minh, who is her father and who lived through the world war two. It wasn't easy yet it was very difficult at first. He had to escape to America on a ship which was not that big. Since he was an immigrant, he had to hide below the deck which are insanitary, there was dead bodies including young kids, disease, sorrow, fear, and

homesick. What had got them the courage to move on was hope. The reason why they were all on the journey was because they all had one thing in common which are a better life, freedom of speech, religion, education and a better life for their kids. There was pirates over seas back then and my dad was fortunate not to see them. Some ships weren't so lucky because goods were stolen; there was murder, rape, and even kidnapping young kids to sell. It was chaotic during that time. My father almost got thrown out the ship because some people were greedy and wanted to steal his money but, luckily he met the captain. For this reason, it had saved him. On the other hand her mother was on the plane to America. My father and mother had to struggle in America because of the language because they couldn't read it, write it or speak it and it was horrendous. Yet, they weren't ashamed of their language or how they didn't fit in. Furthermore, they went to school and there they learnt English. She made sure that her language and culture wasn't smothering by the Americanized custom. She continues to speak Vietnamese and also taught her kids too. My father and mother met and got married. She was a proud mother of her daughter and son. She wants the culture to spread and not come to a stop and she wants her kids to be feel noble of it and not embarrass like other parts of the family. Everytime, they had a family reunion, it was forbidden to speak English but only in Vietnamese. She wants to preserve and continue her culture.

It wasn't until around spring break when Xuan and her family felt ashamed of her family. It had happen during spring break where her family decided to take a trip to Texas. Their purpose was to celebrate their long distance relative wedding. To Xuan, it didn't seem like a family but rather just meeting a friend since it was a long distance relationship. During the reunion, she met her long distance uncle and she was stunned by his grammar and the kids' English grammar as well. What made her sad was that she realized everyone there, had forgotten the root where they're from. **Not just the history in where you learn but the ground in which you stand on and the civilization, discipline, folkways, and culture that defines who you are!** She asked her uncle why he doesn't he teach his children any Vietnamese. He would reply "We don't live in Vietnam we live in America." There was silence and the atmosphere was thicker than ever and the mood just changed. To her it was just too much to process. She replied back saying "I am embarrassed and ashamed for you and to be here" This was the day where

she wondered how many people are just like him and it made her felt bitter in her throat everytime she remembers the day.

Xuan still continues and strives to spread her culture for who ever want to learn it. If it weren't for the incident in Texas it wouldn't make her realize how lucky she was to still have a family that's honored to be Vietnamese. This was all made possible by her grandma because she was the one who encourage everyone to still keep intact with their roots. Overall, she will always preserve her culture and make sure the next and future generation will do so as well.